

## CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

**7/21/2010 – 1:00 p.m. ET**

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

FPL		R2	Linda Hecker
IITF	Carlos Dominguez-Cristobal	R3	Jean Szymanski
NA	Susan Cox	R4	Carol Ryan
NRS	Barbara McGuinness	R5	Tim Williams
PNW & PSW	Becky Bittner	R6	Susan Thomas, Sue Baker
RMRS	Rita Brown	R8	Sharon Waltrip
SRS		R9	
R1		R10	
WO-Detached	Michelle Andrews	WO	Safiya Samman, Harald Fuller-Bennett

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### Notes:

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#### **IITF – Carlos Dominguez-Cristobal:**

- A fire teacher received a prize of excellence in education from the Puerto Rico dept of education. One of his students also received an award for science excellence.
- The model for CE in PR received the approval for publication from the director of IITF.

#### **Northeastern Area –Susan Cox**

- Conducted the NHEET Team Building Vertical Science Literacy with the 5 school districts we've been working with. The theme for the week was water and watersheds. We utilized a lot of activities from project WET and the GLOBE Program but also included PLT and Project WILD activities too. The teachers experienced how water and watershed education can be implemented from Kindergarten through high school building on the skills and knowledge learned at lower grades. The week also included planning time for district teams to plan the science curriculum for their district. We have worked with these districts for over a year and they are now conducting outdoor field experiences for science learning. One district is scheduling longer periods for outdoor science learning and another district has added a third year of required science for high school graduation requirements.
- New York City Watershed Forestry Institute for Teachers will be held the week of August 15 at Menla Mountain Retreat in Phoenecia, NY.
- The Big E USDA exhibit this year will have an emphasis on soils. The Big E is the Eastern States Expo for all 6 New England States and also hosts FFA and 4-H competitions for the Northeast. The Big E runs from August 17<sup>th</sup>-Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

- Grey Towers is hosting the Festival of Wood August 7-8. The Northeastern Area Forest Health Staff and Wood Education Resource Center will have exhibits there.
- The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park will be hosting a Forest Festival September 25-26. The Northeastern Area staff have worked with park personnel in developing their forest management plan and also helped in conducting workshops since the site was donated.
- Susan Cox will be leading the NAAEE preconference field trip to Letchworth State Park. Also at NAAEE, Susan and Nicole Wulff, Changing Roles coordinator in R8, will have a poster on the Changing Roles program.

**NRS: Barbara McGuinness:**

- We just finalized agreement with rocking the boat for a MKIW grant.
- We are putting together a Sept 29 field tour at the NAAEE conference in Buffalo.
- I am doing tech transfer with the research station now and a bus tour from Pennsylvania.

**SRS – Claire Payne:** (reported via email)

- The Health Adventure visits will take place July 27 and Aug. 3.
- The Mountain State Fair project will take place in the fall

**RMRS-Rita Brown:**

- We had \$8000 this year that I was able to compete for our scientists around the station with. I had 11 proposals competing for this \$. I was able to fund 8 projects.
- A scientist took a group of kids from the largest homeless shelter in NM and took them to a nature center. Also, one group bought a streamboard to Trace River and brought a group of kids from the area.

**PNW/PSW- Becky Bittner:**

- This weekend we have the inner city youth institute.
- Coming up a camp with the World Forestry Center.
- We are reviewing the PNW issue of the investigator.

**Region 1 – Julie Molzahn** reported via email:

- Helena FFEC just finished their summer institute for last years training class.
- Jane Weber and her staff at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center received the Forest Service unit award from Take Pride in America for all their work with volunteers last Friday, July 16th.

- The Beaverhead Deerlodge "Bridging the Divide" Conservation Education pilot program for high school youth completed a successful summer camp that focused on Shoshone Bannock tribal elders teaching the high schoolers about native plant use especially the use of camas in their culture and then the Forest Service folks went through native plant management too.
- Idaho PLT held a teacher training focusing on native plants and fire history using the 1910 Fires and our ongoing commemoration as the background setting. The class was held in Kellogg, Idaho which is located next to Wallace, Idaho where much of the town burned in 1910.
- There are many programs occurring all over the Region so everyone is really busy.

### **Region 3 – Jean Szymanski**

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- The Lincoln NF in southern NM will host their Youth in A.C.T.I.O.N (Appreciating, Connecting, and Thriving in Nature) Day on Thurs. July, 22. Our Deputy Regional Forester, Faye Kruger will attend the event. I provided talking points to Faye for the event
  - Recently the RO took part in two events for homeless kids. The first one was in partnership with the RMRS. The audience were families from homeless shelter in ABQ. Families spent the day at a nature center in ABQ. The second one involved middle school
  - Working on assessment of CE on all forests in Region, probably in Nov. This will be done via video teleconferencing (VTC). I have prepared a format and list of questions for the Forests to have before the VTC. I'll also be visiting appropriate staffs in the
  - This past Saturday ABQ hosted a listening session for Americas Great Outdoors. Our Regional Forester, PAO Director and myself attended. There was Youth listening session in the morning and a general session, followed by a second listening session open to

### **Region 4- Carol Ryan:**

- Salmon Chalice program.
- NGOD in Salt Lake had a huge turnout.
- We have had over 700 kids on wildflower hikes this summer.
- There is a "CE awakening" in region 4.

### **Region 5 – Tim Williams**

- Conservation Education Coordinator (Timothy Williams) participated in the first of four Forestry Institute for Teachers at the UC Forestry Camp in Meadow Valley, Ca. on June 13th to June 19th, 2010.
- The Get to Know 2011 Calendars have been printed and we have distributed them to the 18 National Forests in R5 and to Camp Smokey at the California State Fair this week.

- Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Education Program development to help educate Head Start teachers about the Woodsy Owl program. I will be working with the State Coordinator, Kay Atunez.
- Working on the USDA People's Garden Initiative and The City of Vallejo People's Garden was one of two winners, out of 267 entries nationwide, of the Gardens for Good contest sponsored by Nature's Path Organic Foods.
- Forestry Conservation Days is in jeopardy and I have been working with the Society of American Foresters Northern California Chapter to hopefully find an alternative location to hold the 2012 program. The Santa Clara County Park where the program has taken place for the last 19 years has lost the Youth Hostel everyone used to stay in for free.
- I am presently planning out next year's classroom presentations in the Vallejo Unified Schools with one of our local non profits called Solano Advocates for a Green Environment (SAGE).

#### **Region 6 – Sue Baker**

- In Oregon Susan Thomas and I have been working together trying to get a web presence for CE in region 6. We have been trying to connect with others doing CE projects in the region. I am very excited about the American Recreation Coalition talking/listening sessions and would love to get the notes if anyone has them. Also, I was wondering what the filing code is for CE? **We do have an official filing code for CE: 1620-3.** Also, I was accepted to be a presenter in Buffalo at the NAAEE.

#### **Susan Thomas:**

- We are in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of our summer program. It is up and running, and we have a new partner called Skill Source with 4H. Also, in partnership with the North Cascades Institute, they are doing the Climate Change Workshop which will involve community service projects in response to climate change.

#### **Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip:**

- At LBL, 635 people were at our Cool and Crawly Critters and 575 to the 1850 Independence Day. Good numbers for hot time of year.
- Upcoming event first week end of Aug, is our annual Hummingbird Festival starting with a workshop on Friday, Operation Ruby Throat and banding. etc.

#### **Region 9 -**

#### **Region 10 –**

### **WO – Detached – Michelle Andrews:**

- The Ecosystem Services edition of the NI is out. It is now online and available. And the Fire edition is coming soon, as well as the Climate Change Investigator.

### **Washington Office – Safiya:**

- NPLD is Sept 25. The letter went out with availability of funds (\$10,000 - \$1,000 per site). I hope you received copies of it – Nobody has seen it, but Safiya will send it out. The money can help with a service project for NPLD.
- NAAEE – please tell me about your events - we are putting all the FS events in our advertisement. Also, perhaps we can arrange a lunch or dinner for all of us FS folks at NAAEE.
- AD vacancy: We are in the last stretch – the candidate assessments will go to the ELT next week.
- The American Great Outdoors Initiative: there are 6 teams, including Youth Engagement and Education. Robin Thompson is the lead from USDA on this team. We had a listening session here in the Yates Building. The most important thing for you to be aware of: <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/> - you can read comments and add your comments.
- International Year of the Forest – Designated by the United Nations. Jim Hubbard is the executive lead for the Forest Service, and I hope that all of you can be involved. This has two parts – policy and outreach.
- We have an agreement with PLT on Green Schools. We have piloted 5 schools in DC. A new agreement is under review with G&A. We are trying to connect this Green Schools gardening with the People's Garden. Green Schools will have both logos. We will try to reach out and expand to other states. We have \$250,000 – it will be competitive. We can use the schools we are already working with to find new schools for the initiative.
- We are renewing our agreement with the Prince William Network – it is expanded to include FFEC and Green Schools in addition to Monarch and Pollinator Live.
- The NWF MOU is currently being reviewed by G&A.
- Kids 4 Trees – we have a master agreement with them.
- Also, the agreement with the Canon Envirothon is done.
- Please ask Marchelle Roberts if you need more copies of the *Connecting Kids to Nature* report..

### **Harald (on behalf of Iris)**

- The symbols.gov Ecommerce site is very close to being up - will be ready by the end of the calendar year
- The Woodsy owl ABCs Teacher's Activity Book is in editorial review
- If you have extra end of year money, now is a great time to place orders at the Cache
- If you need more Smokey Bear DVDs or 2011 Poster Contest materials, please let Iris or Harald know